

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Armored Trucks for the Volkspolizei

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1. The Horch plant at Zwickau is manufacturing a special type of armored truck for the Volkspolizei. Partial delivery has been made to most Volkspolizei units, and the plant is turning the vehicles out on a production-line basis to complete the quota for each Volkspolizei unit.
2. According to statements made by Volkspolizei personnel, the cars are designed for guerrilla fighting rather than for regular warfare, and are armored with 10-millimeter steel plates. The armor protects the upper halves of the wheels as well as the body of the truck. The truck has eight double wheels--six large wheels at the rear and two smaller ones in front. The vehicle is open at the top. Under normal conditions the driver sits on a folding seat which is placed in a position to give maximum view of the road ahead. When danger threatens, the seat is readjusted so that the driver's head is hidden and he watches the road through a peephole. The walls at the back of the truck are chest or shoulder high, and are also equipped with peepholes. A post for mounting a heavy machine gun is placed in the middle of the floor. Automatic cannon and heavy mortars are said (not confirmed by observation) to be carried in addition to the demountable machine gun. The size and capacity of the trucks was not stated except that one of the vehicles, observed at Halberstadt, was carrying six Volkspolizei in addition to the driver. The men rode in the back of the truck, some of them carrying model 44 rifles (in Danish--stormgevær 44). A machine gun lay on the floor of the truck, ready to be mounted on the center post. The vehicle was enameled dark green. It is popularly called a "tank" (in Danish--panservogn).
3. The informant observed about ten of the trucks at Halberstadt and ten in Leipzig. The Volkspolizei in Schwerin are also equipped with an unknown number of the vehicles.

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